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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 176 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/55/711.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 48th and 50th meetings, on 19 and 22 March 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/55/SR.48 and 50).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/55/666 and Corr.1) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/55/688 and Add.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.46

4. At the 50th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Botswana, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" (A/C.5/55/L.46).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.46 without a vote (see para. 5).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000, regarding the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1344 (2001) of 15 March 2001,

Recalling its resolution 55/237 of 23 December 2000 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such operations,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 28 February 2001, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 101.9 million United States dollars, representing 92 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes that some 13 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

[1] A/55/666 and Corr.1.

[2] A/55/688 and Add.1.

3. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission, and for this purpose requests the Secretary-General to speed up the implementation of the asset management system at all peacekeeping missions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 A of 15 October 1997;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the earliest possible time on how the concept of operations affects and can justify the proposed structure of the Mission, including its senior staff component;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

13. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 180 million dollars gross (177,866,900 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 31 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, inclusive of the amount of 150 million dollars gross (148,220,200 dollars net) authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/237;

14. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 150 million dollars gross (148,220,200 dollars net) already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 55/237, to apportion the additional amount of 30 million dollars gross (29,646,700 dollars net) for the period from 31 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set

[3] A/55/688/Add.1.

out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by subsequent relevant resolutions and decisions, for the apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations, the latest of which were resolution 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and decisions 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999 for the period 1998-2000, and resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 of 23 December 2000 for the period 2001-2003, the scale of assessments for 2000[4] to be applied against a portion thereof, that is, 13,791,045 dollars gross (13,628,632 dollars net), which is the amount pertaining to the period ending 31 December 2000, and the scale of assessments for 2001[5] to be applied against the balance, that is, 16,208,955 dollars gross (16,018,068 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2001;

15. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 353,300 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 31 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, 162,413 dollars being the amount pertaining to the period ending 31 December 2000 and the balance, that is, 190,887 dollars, pertaining to the period from 1 January to 30 June 2001;

16. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea".

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[4] See resolutions 52/215 A and 54/237 A.

[5] See resolution 55/5 B.